

R E M A R K S

Applicant thanks Examiner Tran for the courtesy of an interview conducted with Applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb, on June 3, 2004 at the USPTO. A copy of the interview summary was provided by the Examiner.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Thurn et al., U.S. Pat No. 6,004,558. Claims 1-17 and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the combination of Thurn et al. and Blatt et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,340,478, alternatively in view of the combination of Blatt et al. and Bucci, U.S. Pat. No. 6,17,429. Claims 18-20 stand rejected in view of the combination of Blatt et al., Bucci et al. and Shlyankevich, U.S. Pat. No. 5,424,331.

With respect to the §102(3) rejection, as indicated in the interview summary, it was agreed that amendment of the independent claims as discussed in the interview would overcome this rejection. The independent claims have been so amended.

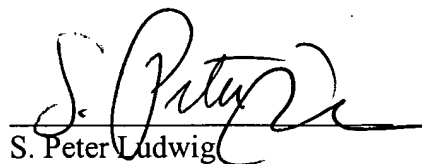
With respect to the §103 rejections, as explained in the interview and recorded in the interview summary, at the time the present invention was made, it was commonly owned with the Blatt et al. reference. All four of the inventors listed in the Blatt et al. reference are also inventors of the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, at the time the invention of the Blatt et al. reference was made, the inventors were under a duty to assign to Bio Dar Ltd., which in fact they did, as recorded on the front page of Blatt et al., and at the time the presently claimed invention was made, the inventors were under a duty to assign to Bio Dar Ltd., which in fact they did. Consequently, Blatt et al. is not available as a reference under §103(a). Since all of the §103(a) rejections rely upon Blatt et al., it is respectfully submitted that all the §103(a) rejections have been overcome.

Applicants believe the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the rejections raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and

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remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", written over a horizontal line.

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